What is claimed is:
~~Patent Claims~~

1. A method for authentication of key devices using an asymmetric encryption method, in which the key
5   device is assigned a device-specific certificate (Z), characterized in that each key device is assigned a group-specific signature key (pAD) and a group-specific signature (S(Z)) of the certificate (Z), with a group being composed of a limited total number of key
10 devices.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the signature key (pAD) and the signature (S(Z)) are allocated on one-off first initialization.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2,
15 characterized in that the group association is determined by comparison with a list.

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